

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125277  
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 125277

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CAT MASS VE

SUBJECT: DEBRIEFING ON HELSINKI TALKS

1. IN PARAS BELOW ARE TALKING POINTS TO DRAW ON AS APPROPRIATE, IN REPORTING RESULTS OF HELSINKI CAT TALKS TO PRESIDENT PEREZ. WE BELIEVE YOU MAY WISH TO EXERCISE SOME SELECTIV;TY, BUT IN ORDER TO LEAVE YOU MAXIMUM DISCRETION, WE ARE GIVING A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE TALKS AS THEY RELATED TO LATIN AMERICA. YOU SHOULD, HOWEVER, STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING THIS INFORMATION CLOSELY.

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2. (A) WE WERE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS.  
(B) WE DID NOT SEEK AGREEMENT ON CONCRETE MEASURES AT THE HELSINKI MEETING.  
(C) THE SOVIETS SEEMED TO ACCEPT CAT RESTRAINT AS AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THEY AGREED THAT THE DIALOGUE ON CAT RESTRAINT SHOULD BE CONTINUED

ON A REGULAR BASIS.

3. WE AGREED THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS ON THE WORLDWIDE RESTRAINT PROBLEM WAS REQUIRED. AS TO US-SOVIET EFFORTS, WE AGREED THAT THEY SHOULD, FOR THE MOMENT, CONTINUE ON A BILATERAL BASIS.

4. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE SSOD IN GENERAL TERMS, EXPLAINING THAT WE SOUGHT A GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF RESTRAINT IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS BUT PLANNED NO MAJOR INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME.

5. (A) THE SOVIET APPROACH AT THE TALKS CONCENTRATED ON WHAT THEY REFERRED TO AS UNIVERSAL POLITICAL AND LEGAL CRITERIA, WHICH CHIEFLY CONCERN THE IDENTIFICATION OF LEGITIMATE RECIPIENTS BASED ON EXISTING, INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DOCUMENTS SUCH AS THE UN CHARTER AND THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS DECLARATION.

(B) WE FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO DEVELOP FUNCTIONAL GUIDELINES AND ON THE NEED TO DISCUSS CONCRETE RESTRAINT MEASURES AS THEY APPLIED TO SPECIFIC REGIONS.

(C) THE SOVIETS SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE NEED FOR DISCUSSION OF BOTH "POLITICAL/LEGAL" AND "MILITARY/TECHNICAL" GUIDELINES, BUT WERE MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT FUTURE REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS.

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6. (A) THE US SIDE RAISED LATIN AMERICA AS AN EXAMPLE OF A REGION WHERE TENSIONS ARE LOW AT THE MOMENT, BUT WHERE POLITICAL DISPUTES COULD GET TRANSLATED EASILY BY STRONG MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS INTO ARMS RACES.

(B) WE NOTED THAT, FOR MANY YEARS, WE HAVE PRACTICED SELF RESTRAINT IN OUR ARMS TRANSFERS TO LATIN AMERICA.

(C) WE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS ALSO A CONSIDERABLE HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICAN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SELF RESTRAINT, THAT THOSE ATTEMPTS HAVE FAILED FOR VARIOUS REASONS, BUT THE MOST RECENT ATTEMPT -- THE 1974 DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO -- WAS FRUSTRATED IN PART BY THE ACTIVITIES OF SUPPLIERS, WHO SEEMINGLY IGNORED THIS EXPRESSION OF CONCERN WITHIN THE ANDEAN REGION.

7. WE THEN RAISED, IN CAUTIOUS AND HYPOTHETICAL TERMS AND WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE SPONSORSHIP, THE POSSIBILITY OF REVIVING THE AYACUCHO DECLARATION.

8. WE SUGGESTED THAT TO SUPPORT A REGIONAL NEGOTIATING EFFORT, SHOULD IT OCCUR, SUPPLIERS COULD PLEDGE TO OBSERVE A SERIES OF MEASURES INCLUDING:

(A) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL RESTRAINT;

(B) TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL NEGOTIATIONS;

(C) NO ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE REGION THAT WOULD ALTER THE CURRENT BALANCE, MEANING NO NEW LEVELS OF TECHNOLOGY, NO LARGE QUANTITIES OF EQUIPMENT, AND NO LARGE VOLUME OF SALES THAT WOULD AFFECT THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF

DEFENSE. MOREOVER, SUPPLIERS SHOULD AGREE NOT TO CIRCUMVENT RESTRAINT THROUGH CO-PRODUCTION DEALS THAT COULD HELP COUNTRIES IN THE REGION TO EVADE AGREED REGIONAL LIMITATIONS;

(D) NO INTRODUCTION OR SUPPORT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF OUTSIDE COMBAT FORCES, EXCEPT AS PART OF REGIONAL COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROCEDURES.

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(E) SUPPORT FOR AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT BY NOT SUPPLYING APOSTATE COUNTRIES BEYOND THE LEVELS SET BY THE AGREEMENT.

9. (A) WE PROPOSED A DISCUSSION OF SPECIFICS AT THE NEXT SESSION TO INCLUDE LATIN AMERICA; WE SAID WE WOULD MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

(B) WE HOPE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH PEREZ AS OUR TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS UNFOLD.

(C) AT THIS POINT, WE ARE THINKING PRIMARILY OF MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE PEREZ INITIATIVE.

(D) WHAT WE PROPOSE AT THE NEXT SESSION, WHICH WILL COME AFTER THE SSOD, WILL DEPEND AT LARGE MEASURE ON THE UNFOLDING OF THE PEREZ INITIATIVE.

10. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE US-SOVIET JOINT COMMUNICATION BEGIN TEXT - THE DELEGATIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HELD CONSULTATIONS IN HELSINKI, FINLAND, MAY 4 TO MAY 8, 1978, ON THE PROBLEM OF LIMITING INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WAS LED BY MR. LESLIE H. GELB, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE SOVIET DELEGATION WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR L. I. MENDELEVICH. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TOOK PLACE IN A BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PROBLEM OF LIMITING INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS IS URGENT, AND CALLS FOR SOLUTION ON A CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS SO AS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND STRENGTHEN DETENTE. EACH SIDE PRESENTED ITS VIEWS ON POSSIBLE WAYS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THESE MEETINGS, BEING A COMPONENT OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS ON CESSATION OF THE ARMS RACE, ARE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
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THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SOVIET UNION, SIGNED MAY 29, 1972.

BOTH DELEGATIONS STATES THEIR BELIEF THAT EFFECTIVE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM REQUIRES FULL CONSIDERATION OF

THE LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS OF RECIPIENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR MUTUAL DESIRE THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE TWO SIDES SHOULD ASSIST OTHER INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO RESTRAIN THE TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS, SUCH AS THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY THE FORTHCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

AFTER TWO ROUNDS OF CONSULTATIONS, IT WAS AGREED THAT A BASIS EXISTS TO HOLD REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN ORDER TO EXPLORE CONCRETE MEASURES THAT COULD BE TAKEN, INCLUDING MEASURES TO ENGAGE OTHER SUPPLIER COUNTRIES, TO LIMIT INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS. THE EXACT DATE OF THE NEXT ROUND OF THE MEETINGS, EARLY THIS SUMMER, WILL BE DETERMINED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS -  
END TEXT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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